President.—Is there any necessity to press theresolution ?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.— I beg leave to withdraw the resolution.

President.—The question before the House is whether leave be granted to Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar to withdraw the resolution. Those who are in favour of the motion please hold up their hands.

(*The motion was carried and leave given.*)

(2). *Working of the Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies.*

President.—The next resolution is that standing in the name of Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—The resolution reads thus:—

"*This Council recommends that Government may be pleased to appoint a Committee, constituted of the Director of Public Instruction and two non-official Members of the Cochin Legislative Council; to enquire into the alleged irregularities of the Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies in the State, and to report upon the past working of the said Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies during the last five years and to suggest necessary measures for more efficient work in future.*"

I do not think I need make a long speech to commend this resolution to this House, since both the official and non-official Members are aware of the trenchant criticisms levelled against the working of the Committee, during the budget session of the Legislative Council, and many of the newspapers have been agitating over the matter. I do not refer to particular books or particular personalities, but there are certain principles to govern the working of the Committee, and I am sorry that the Committee is not governed by definite rules. It is more or less the word of the President that carries weight, and whenever he issues certain instructions, they vary year after year and from meeting to meeting.

The second is that most of the members of the Text-Book Committee are Headmasters, and the Senior Inspector's opinions carry weight, and his opinions are generally given before the books are even taken into consideration. At one sitting we had to dispose of nearly 100 books. The meeting may last from 4 to 4½ hours, and the House can very well understand how many minutes a member can devote for the consideration of a book. Some call certain books library books, and the others do not even get time to refer to the opinions prepared by them.

The third defect is that there is no definite list of books issued before the books are considered by the Board of Studies.

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This is due to the want of proper rules.

The fourth is the most curious thing. The Text-Book Committee is divided into various sub-committees,—Malayalam Committee, English Committee, History Committee, etc. Copies of the books have to be sent to the members of the sub-committee, and the whole body of the members, including those who have not even seen the books, are to vote upon the books. Members, who have not seen the books, and who have absolutely no idea of the books, are asked to vote upon the books, as if the opinions of the sub-committee are binding on the others. So a definite set of rules governing the Text-Book Committee is absolutely necessary. And there are so many irregularities in publishing the books also. One book is sent to the Board for approval, and another book is printed and sold. I shall refer to one particular instance. I have a copy of the book approved by the Text Book Committee and also a copy printed and sold and there are many differences between the two. So many pictures and maps are omitted. You know they are essential in Junior Readers. These pictures are given in the first publication, but they are not seen in the second publication. These are irregularities that have either escaped the attention of the authorities. or have been allowed to be committed with their knowledge. There are so many minor irregularities besides these. It is due to having no set of definite rules, the Senior Inspector as President and Headmasters as members of the Committee.

President.—Are they not the members of the Board of Studies?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—No. Only the Senior Inspector and some other members of the Text-Book Committee are members of the Board of Studies.

President.—I meant to say that the members of the Text-Book Committee are members of the Board of Studies.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I am a member of the Board of Studies, and I am a member of the Text-Book Committee also. A few members of the Text-Book Committee are allowed to constitute the Board of Studies. They are nominated. There is no other member in the Board of Studies who is not a member of the Text-Book Committee.

President.—So all the members of the Board of Studies are members of the Text-Book Committee, and a few of the members of the Text-Book Committee are not members of the Board of Studies.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—There is no set of definite rules.

President.—What is the disadvantage?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—There is no disadvantage

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with the Senior Inspector as President in theory, but in practice the Headmasters are generally respecting his opinion, and I have not seen a single Headmaster dissenting from the opinion given by the Senior Inspector.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—If there is no difference of opinion among the Headmasters?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I know and I have seen certain written opinions of Headmasters, who have a difference of opinion, but they are not given time to place before the committee their written opinions for want of time.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—All these books are sent in advance. It seems to me that all these books are sent for perusal and not for discussion.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—What I say is that the members are not allowed to read their opinions already prepared by them.

There is another body—an anamolous body—viz., the Malayalam Improvement Committee. I understand this committee is asked to prepare readers, and those readers are a sort of imposition upon the Text-Book Committee. We have to consider the monetary condition of the Improvement Committee. The Malayalam Improvement Committee is a semi-official body, which will suffer in funds if their books are rejected. So what I submit is there must be co-ordination between the Malayalam Improvement Committee and the Board of Studies.

In order to bring these matters before the notice of the Government I have tabled this resolution.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—I would second the resolution. A similar resolution has been tabled in my name, so that I need not move it separately. Resolution No. 4 reads thus :—

"*This Council recommends that a committee composed of the Director of Public Instruction and two non-official Members of the Council be appointed forthwith to enquire into and report upon the work of the Cochin Text-Book Committee and Board of Studies during the last five years and to suggest feasible measures for its improved working*".

It has come to the notice of the Council in the discussion during the budget session that there were objectionable passages in many of the readers approved by the committee. It is no use crying over split milk. It is not my purpose to expose the defects existing in the working of the Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies. My main idea is that feasible measures for improving the working may be considered by a committee constituted by the Director of Public Instruction and two non-official Members of this Council. The Board of Studies is a

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smaller body extracted out of the Cochin Text-Book Committee. In the Madras Presidency, as far as I know, the constitution is different. It would be always desirable to have a different body of members in the Board of Studies, so that they might give their considered opinion as to which set of books or readers should be accepted and prescribed. Other matters relating to the unsatisfactory nature of the working of the committee have been brought to the notice of this House by the Hon'ble Member for Cranganur, who happens to be a member of the Board of Studies and of the Text Book Committee. He has suggested feasible measures for the better working of an institution like this. I trust the Hon'ble Members will support this resolution.

Mr. T. A Ramachandra Ayyar.—I support the motion.

നമ്മുടെ പുസ്തക കമ്മറ്റിക്കാർകഴിഞ്ഞ അഞ്ചുകൊല്ലങ്ങളിൽ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള പ്രവർത്തികളെകുറിച്ചു ഈ റസല്യൂഷനിൽ പറയും പ്രകാരം ഒരന്വേഷണം നടത്തിയാൽ രസകരങ്ങളായ പലസംഗതികളും പുറത്തുവരുന്നതാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടെഞ്ചാൻ ഈപ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

പുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ ഗുണത്തേക്കാൾ പബ്ലിഷർമാരുടെ ഗുണത്തെയാണ കമ്മറ്റി അധികം മനസ്സിരുത്തിപ്പോന്നിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നു് ആകപ്പാടെ നോക്കുമ്പോൾ തോന്നുക. എറണാകുളത്തു ഉള്ളതായി പറയപ്പെടുന്ന ഒരുകൊച്ചിൻ പബ്ലിഷിങ്ങ് ഹൌസിൽനിന്നു പുറപ്പെടുന്ന പുസ്തകങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു സ്കൂളുകൾ നിറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ ഹൌസ്സിൽനിന്നു പുറപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള പുസ്തകങ്ങളിൽ അധികവും സ്കൂളുകളിൽ കടത്തുവാൻപോലും കൊള്ളരുതാത്തവയാണ. അവർ പ്രസിദ്ധംചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള മലയാളപുസ്തകങ്ങളിൽ പ്രധാനമായിട്ടുള്ളതു് 'ചിന്താമണി' മലയാളപാഠപുസ്തകങ്ങളാണ്. അവയിൽ അടങ്ങിയിട്ടുള്ള അബദ്ധങ്ങളെകുറിച്ചു ഈ കൌൺസിലിന്റെ കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് യോഗത്തിൽവെച്ചു ചാലക്കുടി മെംബറും തൈക്കെ ഈഴവനിയോജകമണ്ഡലം മെംബറും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതെല്ലാം ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെയും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്റെയും ശ്രദ്ധയ്ക്കു വിഷയമായിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നറിഞ്ഞില്ല. അവർ ആ പുസ്തകങ്ങളെ ഇപ്പോഴും സ്കൂളുകളിൽ ഉപയോഗിക്കുവാൻ അനുവദിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു തിട്ടിയാണ്. അതുകാണുമ്പോൾ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷനും ആ വിഷയം അർഹിക്കുന്നഗൌരവം അതിനുകൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ലെന്നു തെളിയുന്നു. കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് യോഗത്തിലെ അവാദപ്രതിവാദത്തിന്റെ അവസാനത്തിൽ "ഈ ആക്ഷേപത്തിനു ഒരു സമാധാനം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതാ" എന്നു പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു് എഡ്യൂക്കേഷൻ മെംബറോടു ചോദിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. അതനുസരിച്ചു അദ്ദേഹം എന്തുചെയ്തു എന്നറിവാനായിഞാൻ ചില

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ചോദിക്കാം ഈ യോഗത്തിലേക്കു അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അതിനൊന്നും മറുപടിതന്നെകണ്ടില്ല. വിഷയത്തിലും ഭാഷയിലും പലതെറ്റുകളും ആ പുസ്തകങ്ങളിൽ ഉണ്ട്. ഏഴാംപാഠപുസ്തകത്തിൽനിന്നു രണ്ടുഭാഗങ്ങൾ ഞാൻ വായിക്കാം. അതിലെ ൨ -ാം ഭാഗത്തു ചേർത്തിരിക്കുന്ന ജ്യോതിശ്ശാസ്ത്രംഎന്ന പാഠത്തിൽനിന്നാണ് വായിക്കുന്നതു. "ജ്യോതിശ്ശാസ്ത്രം ഹിന്തുക്കളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ഉണ്ടായിട്ട് എത്രകാലമായിഎന്ന അറിയാൻപാടില്ല. ഏകദേശം ൨ ലക്ഷം വർഷത്തിനുമുമ്പുതന്നെ ഈ ശാസ്ത്രം കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ജ്യോതിശ്ശാസ്ത്രം വേദംഉണ്ടായനാൾമുതൽ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നു". ഇതാണ് അതിലെ രണ്ടുവാചകങ്ങൾ.

ജ്യോതിശ്ശാസ്ത്രം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടു ൨ ലക്ഷം കൊല്ലമായിപോൽ എന്തൊരു കണക്കാണ് ഇതു? എവിടുന്നാണ് ഇതു കിട്ടിയതു? ഈ ഭൂലോകത്തിൽ മനുഷ്യർ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടതന്നെ ൨ ലക്ഷംകൊല്ലമായിട്ടുണ്ടൊ? മനുഷ്യരേക്കാൾ മുമ്പുതന്നെ ജ്യോതിശ്ശാസ്ത്രം ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുമൊ? എന്താണതിന്റെ അർത്ഥം? അടുത്ത പാരയിൽ "ജ്യോതിശ്ശാസ്ത്രം വേദംഉണ്ടായനാൾമുതൽ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നു" എന്നാണ് പറയുന്നതു്. അപ്പോൾ വേദം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടു ൨ ലക്ഷം കൊല്ലമായിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുവരും ഇനി നൂ -ാംഭാഗത്തുനിന്നു ഒരുവാചകം വായിക്കാം. 'ജീവികളുടെ' ആഹാരസമ്പാദ്യം' എന്ന പാഠത്തിലെ ഒടുക്കത്തെ വാക്യമാണതു. ഒരു എമ്പ്രാൻ പൂജിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്ന ബിംബത്തിന്മേൽ.....

.....ഒരു നമ്പൂതിരി ഒരിക്കലും ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു വിഡ്ഢിത്തം പറയുകയില്ല. നമ്പൂതിരിമാർ ബാലിശമുതല്ലേ അമ്പലത്തിലെ നടപടികൾ കണ്ടു മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നവരാണ്. നമ്പൂതിരിമാർ വിഡ്ഢികളാണെന്നു എങ്ങിനെയൊ ചിലർ തെറ്റിധരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു. അതുകൊണ്ടു വിഡ്ഢിത്തങ്ങൾ വല്ലതും പറയേണ്ടഅവശ്യങ്ങൾ വരുമ്പോഴെല്ലാം ഒരു നമ്പൂതിരിയെകൊണ്ടു അതു ചെയ്യിക്കുക എന്നസമ്പ്രദായം വളരെ അക്രമമാണല്ലൊ. അതാണ് ഇവിടെ ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതു

ഒന്നാം ഫാറത്തിലും രണ്ടാം ഫാറത്തിലും പഠിപ്പിച്ചുവരുന്ന 'ഇൻഡ്യാചരിത്രം' പുസ്തകങ്ങളെപറ്റി കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് യോഗത്തിൽ ഈ കൌൺസ്സിലിലെ മുസ്ലീം മെംബർ വളരെകർശനമായി ആക്ഷേപിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു. ആ പുസ്തകങ്ങളും കൊച്ചിൻ പബ്ലിഷിങ്ങ് ഹൌസ്സിന്റെ സന്താനങ്ങളാണു്. ആ പുസ്തകങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചും യാതൊരുനടപടികളും ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടു നടത്തിയതായി അറിയുന്നില്ല. ഇതിൽ ഒന്നാംഫാറത്തിൽ പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്ന പുസ്തകത്തിൽ ചിത്രങ്ങളൊ മാപ്പുകളൊ യാതൊന്നുംതന്നെ കാണുന്നില്ല. ൧൯൦൦ മീനത്തിലെ ഒരു ഗസറ്റിൽ " The books without illustrations will not be considered by the T.B.C." എന്നും "The book will be con

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sidered provided maps and illustrations added'' എന്നും ഉള്ള ഉത്തരവുകൾ പരസ്യം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

President.—How has it happened?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—In the first edition there were illustrations. Due to circumstances out of human control these illustrations could not be inserted. In the second edition unfortunately these illustrations did not appear by some accident.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Was there any enquiry? If those papers are not confidential, could they not be disclosed?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I have not got them. I must look into the papers.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Was the enquiry brought in the nature of a report?

President.—Unfortunately Mr. Matthai is absent. He is sick.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ.—എന്നിരുന്നിട്ടും ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ പ്രസിദ്ധംചെയ്യുന്നവരെക്കുറിച്ച് യാതൊന്നുംചെയ്യാൻ ശവമ്മെണ്ടിനു് അധികാരം ഇല്ലെന്നുണ്ടോ? ഇങ്ങിനെ നോക്കിയാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ സ്കൂളുകളിൽ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന പുസ്തകങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും ശരിമാനവും കൊച്ചിൻ പബ്ലിഷിംഗ് ഹൌസിൽനിന്നും പുറപ്പെടുന്നവയാണെന്നും ആ പുസ്തകങ്ങളിൽ എല്ലാംതന്നെ ഏതെങ്കിലും വിധത്തിലുള്ള ദോഷങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടെന്നും കാണാം. ഇതിന്റെ രഹസ്യം ഒരന്വേഷണംമൂലം വെളിവാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

മറ്റു പ്രസിദ്ധകന്മാർ നല്ല പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ അയച്ചാലും കമ്മറിക്കാർ അംഗീകരിക്കുന്നില്ല. വിദ്യാവിനോദിനി പ്രസ്സുകാർ പ്രസിദ്ധം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള 'വിദ്യാവിനോദിനി' പാഠപുസ്തകങ്ങൾ മുൻതവണ കമ്മറിക്കു അയച്ചിട്ടും 'Not approvable in this form' എന്നുപറഞ്ഞു കമ്മറിക്കാർ തള്ളിക്കളയുകയാണുണ്ടായതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. കെ. വെങ്കഅയ്യർ.—അതു് അഭിപ്രായ വ്യത്യാസം അല്ലെ?

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ.—ആ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ കൊച്ചി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിലെ മലയാള പണ്ഡിതന്മാരിൽ ഏറ്റവും മിടുക്കന്മാരായവർ എഴുതിയിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂർടൈനിങ്ങ് സ്കൂളിലെ മലയാളപണ്ഡിതർ ജി. ശങ്കരക്കുറുപ്പ്, വിക്ടോറിയാ ജൂബിലി ഗൈസ് ഹൈസ്കൂൾ പണ്ഡിതർ വെള്ളാക്കൽ ഗോവിന്ദമേനോൻ മുതലായവരാണ് അതെഴുതിയിരിക്കുന്നതു്. എറണാകുളം കോളേജിലെ മലയാള പണ്ഡിതർ മിസ്റ്റർ കുറുപ്പുറത്തു കേശവൻ നായരാണ് ആ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ എഡിറ്റുചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതു്. സെൻറ് തോമസ് കോളേജ് പണ്ഡിതർ വിദ്വാൻ മിസ്റ്റർ സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ, കവിതിലകൻ കുണ്ടൂർ നാരായണമേനോൻ അവർകൾ, ബി. എ. എന്നു തുടങ്ങിയ പലരും ആ

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പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ പരിശോധിച്ച പിഴ തീർത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. തിരുവിതാംകൂർ, ബ്രിട്ടിഷ് മലബാർ എന്നിവിടങ്ങളിലെ പാഠപുസ്തകക്കമ്മറ്റി കൾ ആ പുസ്തകം അംഗീകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് മലബാറിൽ ആ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ ധാരാളമായി സ്കൂളുകളിൽ ഉപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്നുമുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ മൂന്നു തവണ നമ്മുടെ കമ്മറ്റിക്കാർ നിരസിച്ചതു കാണുമ്പോൾ ആ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഒരു അന്വേഷണം അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. നല്ല പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ ഇങ്ങിനെ തള്ളിക്കളയുകയും കൊള്ളരുതാത്ത പുസ്തകങ്ങൾതന്നെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുകയുംചെയ്യുന്നു കാണുമ്പോൾ അതിൽ സംശയിക്കത്തക്ക ഒരു സംഗതി തീർച്ചയായും ഒളിഞ്ഞു കിടപ്പുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പ്രബലമായി പിന്താങ്ങുന്നു.

At this stage the House rose for lunch at 2 p. m. and reassembled at 3 p. m. when M. R. Ry. V. K. Kochunni Menon Avl., the Deputy President presided.

Deputy President.—What have you to say with regard to the resolution?

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—You may ascertain the opinion of the Government Members.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Who controls the Cochin Printing and Publishing House?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I have no complete information on the point.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Who are the proprietors of the Publishing House?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I do not know.

Deputy President.—Do you oppose the resolution?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I have to oppose the resolution. Government do not think that such a committee is necessary. Sir, I oppose the resolution. In the Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies, the two institutions under the consideration of the House-due representation to non-officials, the Members of the Legislative Council not excluded, has been given. The deliberations of these bodies are always subjected to scrutiny by both the Director of Public Instruction and the Government, and as a result of the representations in this House, Government have insisted on a minute examination being made by the Director into the working of these bodies. The resolutions in hand demand a special committee to enquire into the alleged irregularities of these two bodies. In the first place, Government are not aware of any serious irregularities in their working, and the points adverted to in this House on previous occasions about the defects in a few Malayalam readers are engaging the serious attention of the Government, and the President has been instructed to see that the alleged defects are looked into and

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rectified in subsequent editions, if necessary. Steps have accordingly been taken. In the second place, a non-official committee, to be presided over by the Director of Public Instruction, as contemplated in the resolution, to enquire into the working of 2 bodies with adequate non-official representation working under the supervision of the Director, is superfluous. If serious irregularities exist at all, the non-official members of these bodies could well interpolate on them in their own meetings, drawing the attention of the committee, the Director and the Government on these points. No such step has been reported to have been taken so far. In the absence of this, it has to be presumed that these bodies have been functioning well. I may also add that an All-Kerala Organization for the preparation of text-books and for the development of Malayalam language or literature is under consideration and with the materialisation of this scheme, there would perhaps be no necessity for such separate bodies for the State. In these circumstances, Government consider that no useful purpose will be served by the appointment of a committee as suggested.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—May I know if any representation is made to British Malabar? Has British Malabar given any consent to co-operate with Cochin and Travancore in that respect? You say that steps are being taken to organise an All-Kerala Committee.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I have no details about it. An All-Kerala Organisation for the preparation of the text-books and for the development of the Malayalam language and literature is under the consideration of the committee of the All-Kerala Sahitya Sangham. The Sangham has been addressed on the matter, and the necessity of a separate committee would depend upon the answer that would be received.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—My information is that the Travancore Educational authorities are not for such co-operation. I do not know whether it is true, and I am subject to correction

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—My information is that the British authorities are not for co-operation. Our text-books are much inferior to those of other books. All the rubbish books are unfortunately circulated in all these schools of our children.

Mr. K. Raman Menon.—Sir, I wish to express my opinion. The matter before us is not a trifling one. It concerns the future generation of this country. Whatever education, whatever instruction we give to the young children, it must be made on wholesome lines. If, as the Hon'ble the mover said, there are irregularities, and if, as pointed out by the Hon'ble Member for Cranganur, these bad books containing unprinci-

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pled matters and wrong ideas of the world and our surroundings are hammered into the heads of our young children, then that will be a very bad foundation. Whatever thing is taught must be natural and must confine to truth. Exaggeration and instruction on wrong lines must be put an end to, and should not be encouraged. It is a pity that the books passed by this committee are not properly looked into and introduced. As I understand, this enterprise of printing and publishing books for the youths of the schools in the State has become a matter of speculation. The man who can catch the best favour takes the situation and wins the prize. This is a serious question which this Council should consider. Matters like these should be put above the suspicion of anybody. So I strongly support this resolution.

Mr. M. K. Raman—Sir, I am also one of the members of the Text-Book Committee newly appointed. So I think it is my legitimate duty that I should also take part in the discussion that is going on now. Several of the mistakes, which are seen in the text-books, and which are taught to the little children now, have already been pointed out by the Hon'ble Member for Nellayi. I need not speak anything more about these mistakes. My chief objection with regard to the present constitution of the Text-Book Committee is that most of the members of the committee are those who are employed in the Education Department, and the President of the committee is the Senior Inspector. That is really a handicap. Therefore, on a particular book, when the President forms an opinion, there is no question of denying that opinion by any of the members of the Text-Book Committee. That is what actually takes place. The Text-Book Committee is divided into sub-committees. As has already been pointed out by the Hon'ble Member for Cranganur, I suggested in the Text-Book Committee, that the publishers may be asked to furnish a copy of the books to all the members of the committee, so that, before they come up for discussion, the members may be in a position to form an idea as to what stuff they contain. That seems to have been the practice, but subsequently after the formation of the sub-committees the publishers were asked to circulate copies of the books only in the sub-committee. The opinions of all the members of the Text-Book Committee have to be taken in deciding whether these books are acceptable or not. The other members therefore have to express their opinion without getting a chance of looking at those books.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—I think there was a box kept, and all the books used to be put in it, with the names of the publishers, the price, etc.

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Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—That is not in practice now.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I made a proposal to request the publishers to send a copy of the book to all the members, but that was not allowed. Then there is another difficulty also. In the course of a few hours, we have to take into consideration about 200 or 300 books. The committee sits only two times or so in a year, and the meeting lasts only for about an hour each time. The work is done in the most haphazard manner. It is true that there are complaints from various sources, and some of them, it must be admitted, are from interested parties also. There is no book written by a human being which does not contain mistake. The present books, however, contain some of the most horrible mistakes, and it is high time for a committee to be appointed for investigating into the merits of the books now taught, and I am afraid that almost every book that is now taught will have to be replaced. So my submission is that it would be highly necessary to constitute a committee to go into the working of the Text-Book Committee and also to frame rules for the conduct of the work of the committee. We have absolutely no strict rules to be followed by the Text-Book Committee. When we go there, an agenda is placed before us, and a lot of books come in one after another. And I cannot sincerely say that the books, which we ourselves accepted, and which are prescribed as text-books, are really acceptable or not. There is no use of a Text-Book Committee as it is working now. We must have a President who is not the departmental superior of the other members. All the other members must be in a position to vote for or against these books independently.

Mr. George Chakkyamuri.—I do not know whether the mover will not be satisfied with the present committee. Now this committee is to investigate into the working of the original committee, and after some time you will ask for a third committee, so that this process will be going on. If the committee is not properly working, it should be dissolved in no time. In my opinion that will be the proper position.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Let the assurance come from the Government.

Mr. George Chakkyamuri.—If the Government undertake to have a proper committee, it will be sufficient.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I am neither a member of the Text-Book Committee nor of the Board of Studies. Now it is seen that, as pointed out by the Hon'ble Member for Palivirutti, we have got poperly constituted Text-Book Committee and a Board of Studies. rAll the members are graduates, and most

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of them are L. T's. The only difficulty that is pointed out is that these bodies have not got a code of rules for the guidance of the members in the conduct of their meetings; and therefore, a committee is to be constituted to frame these rules. I think that is going too far. All these members are educated persons, persons of position and character, and as such it is unnecessary to appoint a third committee to frame rules for their guidance. If you look at it from a business-like and financial point of view, this procedure is unbecoming, and means waste of money.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I did not propose that the committee appointed should frame rules. Why should the question be twisted ?

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—Let him read his resolution and his remarks, Sir. Then with regard to the books, I do not think that the Members, who have spoken about the defects of the two sets of books, have got more than a nodding acquaintance with either. Two mistakes are now pointed out by the Member for Nellayi. Does he complain because the exact date is not given with the precision of an astronomical calendar? Any primer on Geology, Sir, will instruct him that the duration stated need not be a fabulous one after all, and, as for the surprise he evinced at the statement that the science of astronomy had its origin along with vedic rituals, I can only sympathise with him.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know for how many years past this committee has existed in this State?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—I know it has been existing from 1086.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Now for 17 years this Text-Book Committee has existed in the State, and very respectable and educated men were members of the committee. With what result? We have got some of the worst books that can ever be introduced in our schools. Nothing need be stated at present, because the same matter was already thoroughly discussed during the budget session. And after that discussion the resolution brought by the Hon'ble Member for Adur was carried. It is not only these mistakes that were pointed out, but there were so many mistakes. Take any text-book and you will find it teeming with mistakes. There is something very wrong with the working of the committee. You cannot improve the situation by dissolving this committee and appointing another committee. How can you find out the mistake by dissolving this committee and appointing another committee? So that the Government either for themselves or through a committee has to go into the root of the matter. We have to see how it has worked unsatis-

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factorily during all these 17 years. Now we are in an improved stage, where we are taught that the hump of the camel is full of water, that Sun is God,etc. I need not repeat all these. So that it is absolutely necessary to go into the root of the matter to see how the committee has not been working satisfactorily during the last 17 years, and for that purpose some enquiry is necessary. I do not think that a committee appointed by this House or by the Government will be able to work satisfactorily. We are now teaching our boys and girls a lot of absurd things, and it is our duty to prevent it. The reason given for adopting these books is that they are already approved by the committee. For inquiring into the whole matter one man or two men are not sufficient. An independent committee must go into the whole questions and unless, this is done, justice cannot be done to the boys and girls attending our schools.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—There is a general and universal impression throughout theState, founded upon facts, founded upon experience, repeated experience of a few years, that text-books disseminated amongst our school children are wrong and bad in point of subject matter and in point of style, both English and Malayalam. The paper used, the types used, and the covers of the text-books are all very bad. Now the question is are we to continue this sort of affairs from year to year, so that we may have generations in the Cochin State steeped in faulty style and subject matter. This state of affairs we have to repair. I am not going to cast aspersions on personalities. I am only stating this fact, this universal fact which is existing throughout the Cochin State. There are complaints from guardians, from parents and from the public alike. There is something wrong in the working of the committee. It is for us to enquire into the case, so that we may remedy the state of affairs. This could be done only by dispassionate inquiry, conducted by an impartial committee constituted by the honourable and independent Members of this House, and not by a set of schoolmasters' officialdom domained over by departmental bosses, who cannot give expression to their views, however honest they may be. With pious wishes to give expression to honest views, the moment they see the shadow of their boss they lose all hopes and sink into despair.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—On a point of information, Sir. Who is the author of this Chinthamany 7th Reader? There is a chit to the effect that the Secretary is the author.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I am not the author.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I have got only very few words by way of reply. The first objection raised by the Gov-

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ernment to an enquiry is that they are considering measures to make the Text-Book Committee of Cochin co-operate with British and Travancore. My information is, that some of the Travancore members are not prepared to adopt this course. I have no information from British authorities; but I have got the authority of the Hon'ble Member for Anglo-Indians that they are also not willing to co-operate with us. Even in case they are prepared to co-operate with us, what is the objection for our Government to take the public into their confidence before they commit themselves. So the very fact that our Government is contemplating to co-operate between Travancore and British Malabar is an argument for me to suggest that the public also should be taken into the confidence of the Government by forming a committee as suggested by me. The second objection is that the Headmasters of schools, who are members of the committee, are free agents to express their opinion. As I said before I have got some letters from the Headmasters, who are members of the committee, in answer to letters addressed by me to them that the whole thing is a farce. And they have empowered me to refer to their letters in case an enquiry is conducted. I make this responsible statement in this House, and I cannot see why the Government is burking the whole question. Whenever there is a complaint, they must take the public into their confidence. There is no grace in burking the whole question. Therefore I press the resolution to a division.

(*The resolution, was put to the vote of the House and carried.*)

(3) *Instruction in all Primary Sirkar schools to be made free.*

Mr. Sankara Puduval.—Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:—

"*This Council recommends that instruction in all Primary Sirkar Schools be made free*".

It would be superfluous to address the House on the great importance of the spread of mass Primary education The commendable educational policy of the State, has enabled it to stand on a high level in the matter of Primary education.

Education in Primary Vernacular schools is now given free; but fees are charged in Primary classes, where elementary English too is taught. I cannot find any adequate justification for this differential treatment. A little knowledge of English, is quite essential to everybody under present conditions. Government's plausible excuse that students, who intend to undergo secondary and higher education alone, need attend English classes in the Primary Department, is but a hollow pretence to levy fees. It is the children of poor people that feel difficulty in

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